

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5	In re Application of: Birk et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 3763
		)	
	Application No.: 10/562,964	)	
		)	Examiner: Manuel A. Mendez
	Filing Date: December 30, 2005	)	
		)	Confirmation No.: 4253
10	For: IMPLANTABLE DEVICE FASTENING	)	
	SYSTEM AND METHODS OF USE	)	Customer No.: 51957
		)	

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15 Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 23213-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

20 Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application, please note the following amendments and remarks.

25 **Listing** of the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.